



PRESS RELEASE
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For Immediate Release

May 22, 2003

**DEFENDANT SENTENCED FOR POSSESSION
AND SALE OF COUNTERFEIT UNITED STATES CURRENCY**

Tampa, FL - United States District Court Judge Susan C. Bucklew today sentenced JOEL AUGUSTIN of Orlando, Florida, to a sentence of eleven months and 29 days imprisonment, to be followed by a term of 36 months of supervised release. She further ordered AUGUSTIN to pay restitution to the United States Secret Service in the amount of \$1,700.00. AUGUSTIN pled guilty to one count of possession and sale of counterfeit United States currency on February 5, 2003.

According to the indictment and the plea agreement, the defendant engaged in discussion regarding the delivery and sale of over \$600,000.00 in counterfeit U.S. currency. He and a co-conspirator ultimately delivered over \$100,000.00 in counterfeit U.S. \$100 Federal Reserve Notes to undercover Secret Service agents in October, 2002.

The case was investigated by the United States Secret Service. It was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Jay L. Hoffer of the Tampa Division.